



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: Wilfred H. Nelson et al.

GROUP: 1641

SERIAL NO: 08/818,534

EXAMINER: J. Hines

FILED: 03/14/97

FOR: DIRECT DETECTION OF BACTERIA-ANTIBODY
COMPLEXES VIA UV RESONANCE RAMAN
SPECTROSCOPY

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

AMENDMENT

In the Claims:

Please amend the following claims:

1 9. (Thrice Amended) A method for detecting the presence of a specific microorganism in
2 a sample, said microorganism having a characteristic resonance enhanced Raman backscattered
3 energy spectrum produced by irradiating nucleic acids in said microorganisms at a wavelength
4 between 242-257 nm, comprising:

5 (a) contacting said sample with a medium comprising solid phase
6 immobilized antibodies which specifically bind to a characteristic cell surface antigen on said
7 microorganism to form an antigen-antibody complex, thereby immobilizing said
8 microorganism on said solid phase;

9 (b) irradiating the solid phase of step (a) with a laser light of 242-257 nm to
10 produce a resonance enhanced Raman backscattered energy, said antibodies emitting essentially
11 no resonance Raman spectra that interfere with the resonance Raman spectra of said

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